(c) Mismatch of infrastructure is one of the reason. However, bunching of flights during peak hours is the main reason for such situation.

(d) Steps taken to reduce congestion at Delhi airport *inter-alia* include construction of new high speed exit taxi-ways, a parallel taxi-track & additional parking stands; implementation of procedures for simultaneous use of both runways, ATC procedures and Dedicated Clearance Delivery Position; imposition of ban on general aviation aircraft during peak period; upgradation of ATC automation system and installation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance & Control System.

Policy on pricing of tickets

2577. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to give domestic carriers a free hand in pricing tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is a departure from the present norms whereby now the airlines have to get prior permission of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) before announcing new fares and schedules; and

(c) if so, the important details of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Both domestic and international carriers are already given free hand in pricing the tickets. After repeal of Air Corporation Act 1953 in 1994, the tariff in respect of airlines is not regulated by Government and it is upto the airlines to fix the tariff and related concessions as per their economic viability and market conditions. In so far as airlines schedule is concerned prior approval of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is still required before implementing the new schedule.

Development of Khajuraho airport

†2578. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the land acquired so far for the development of Khajuraho airport;

(b) the latest position of development works on acquired land; and

(c) by when the development work would be completed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.